

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /080 W

----- 123503

R 080905Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3145

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0470

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN AND EGYPTIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA

1. THE TALK IN TRIPOLI IS THAT ALL OF THE 40,000 OR SO TUNISIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA WITH VALID RESIDENCE PAPERS HAVE BEEN QUIETLY ADVISED BY THE GOT TO RETURN TO TUNISIA. ALTHOUGH RESIDENCE PAPERS ARE NOT BEING RENEWED OR EXTENDED AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THE LIBYANS SEEM TO WANT TO KEEP MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE REMAINING TUNISIANS WORKERS HERE, MOST OF WHOM ARE SKILLED OR SEMI-SKILLED AND WHO WOULD BE HARD TO REPLACE. QADHAFI HAS REFERRED BITTERLY TO THIS SITUATION IN TWO RECENT SPEECHES AND HAS ACCUSED THE GOT OF WANTING TO PARALYZE LIBYAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS. IT IS HARD TO TELL HOW MANY MORE TUNISIANS WILL ACTUALLY LEAVE.

2. AS FAR AS EGYPTIAN WORKERS ARE CONCERNED, THE CAMPAIGN OF DEPORTATIONS SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO AN END AND MOST OF THOSE WORKERS REMAINING SEEM TO INTEND TO STAY ON.

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